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SUBJECT: SEEKING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 81632

11. (SBU) In a meeting on May 30 with Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs for African and Middle East Affairs Oscar Valenzuela, poloff urged the GRP to issue a statement of support for the new Iraqi political leadership and congratulate them on forming a unified government (reftel).

12. (SBU) Valenzuela noted that the GRP had made, and would continue to make, public statements supporting the Iraqi government. He added that the GRP intended to maintain a diplomatic presence in Iraq, even though the current Charge d'Affaires was forced to reside in Amman for safety reasons. Valenzuela indicated that the GRP hoped him to return to Baghdad as soon as conditions permitted.

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Kenney